

THE JEWISH ADVANCE

Historical Society
City

J. MANZ - CO - CHICAGO.

Execute the Judgment of Truth and Peace within your Gates. **חַר וּמִשְׁפַּט שְׁלוֹם שְׁפִטוּ בְּשַׁעְרֵיכֶם**
Entered at the P. O. at Chicago, as second-class matter.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO SOCIAL INTERESTS AND PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM.

VOL. VII.

CHICAGO, OCTOBER 14, 1881.

No. 175.

Suspension.

On account of momentary financial embarrassment we are compelled to suspend the publication of the JEWISH ADVANCE for a term of three months. If but the third part of the moneys due to us from subscribers were collected, we would be free from this embarrassment. With a heart almost bleeding we have resolved upon suspending publication. It was not for our personal interests that we grieved, for in whatever employment we will work as assiduously as we have worked on the JEWISH ADVANCE we will do much better materially than we did by the journal. But we are grieved that the suspension of the JEWISH ADVANCE may reflect discreditably on the taste and spiritual aspirations of our brethren; it will be said that a journal which publishes no "personal items" about balls, parties, dresses and songs enjoyed by the Jewish youth; a journal which honestly and fearlessly states rational truths and opposes error without bias; a journal which has no personal considerations in matters of principles — such a journal, it will be said, can not exist among Jews; they will not support it.

Since June 14th 1878, when the first issue of the JEWISH ADVANCE appeared, up to the present time we honestly and devotedly pursued our labors. We shunned no work and no personal

discomfiture for the sake of that work. It would be a mistake if one were to imagine that we ever expected to earn financially by the JEWISH ADVANCE more than we needed for a bare livelihood; it would be erroneous to believe that we expected honor or favorable renown among the masses. We knew very well that the work of radicalism in religion can give neither the one, nor the other among our brethren. But we knew just as well, that such work is needed if Judaism is to be preserved, and to gain the recognition in the world to which it is entitled. It is therefore that we would fain give our life to this work. We knew, moreover, that capital and labor would be required for such work, and believed that the means we had at our command would suffice for the purpose. But at the time we began to see some success in our work, the tendencies of the journal beginning to be appreciated by the cultured classes of our brethren, we learned the sad truth that our calculations had fallen short of the time and means required to penetrate the masses.

The causes by which we were driven into our present difficulties are obvious and we will not tire our readers with an elaborate account thereof. We will only state that the delinquency of our subscribers although it is directly the cause of our suspending publication, is in itself the effect of other causes. It is, for instance, contrary to the material

interests of our rabbis that a Jewish Journal should exist which will not yield to their influence, which is able to meet them on their own grounds in a conflict of opinions which would not make "stars" of such men as are anything but shining lights in the pulpit. Some of our rabbis have cause to be afraid of honest, unbiased and boldly expressed truths, others again are faint-hearted and stand in friendly relation to their unworthy colleagues. The former therefore, must undermine the interests of every independent publication; the latter must deny it their countenance and support. Our congregations, too, inasmuch as they are composed of men who live on and by old impressions in matters of religion and who have no time to think for themselves, must naturally rely on the thinking and actions of the rabbis, right or wrong. Thus it comes to pass that whatever is contrary to the interests of rabbinism (which is in every respect synonymous with priestcraft) is maligned and held low. And the conscience of the fraternity of the cloth is pliant, and means can easily be found to impose on the people.

The constantly increasing circulation of the JEWISH ADVANCE has been watched with anxiety by the rabbis; the confiding nature and "impracticalness" of the editor is taken advantage of; the willing influence of those who are slow

truly ideal pursuit, were prejudiced; the ready tools of scheming individuals were set to work in the press, in the pulpit and in meaner ways to prejudice the minds of the people against the JEWISH ADVANCE — delinquency of subscribers in paying their bills was the immediate cause, the suspension of publication ensued.

There is perhaps a tone in the last sentences which we should not have given to them. But who will judge us harshly at this moment and in the position we are now! For nearly four years we have toiled hard, literally by day and by night, our eye-sight became impaired, our health almost ruined. We have worked to gain the ear of our brethren for the cause of "Truth and Justice." And after we had gained an audience (our subscription list can compare favorably with that of any Jewish Publication in this country) we see our work turned almost into nought, by dishonest scheming. This makes the heart bleed and bitter expressions escape the pen.

The columns of the JEWISH ADVANCE were always open to fair and honest reason; the editor never crowded out articles which contained even severe censure on him, if there was only some reason and common-sense in them. We only rejected reports of hops and dances and surprise parties, and *brith-milaks*; we were never interested to hear about Miss X's dress, Master

Y's songs and Mr. Z's dances. We thought it was below the dignity of a serious publication to fill its columns with such matter. We crowded out course jokes, tasteless witticism, and obscene advertisements, because we would not send into the houses of our subscribers that which might be unwholesome for their children to read. Peruse the columns of other Jewish publications in this country and see whether their publishers can conscientiously say the same.

In the consciousness that we have done our duty as best we could we find some consolation.

In the hope that we will soon be able to take up our work of love again, we lay down our pen for the present.

Now a few words on business:

The few subscribers who have paid for some time in advance, will have the equivalent of their money sent them as soon as we again resume publication.

We will send bills to our subscribers who are in arrears and urgently request them to remit what they owe us.

All receipts will be signed by the editor; no person is authorized to sign a bill for us.

All communications concerning the *Jewish Advance* should be addressed:

No. 1500 Wabash Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

HENRY GERSONI.